

California Livestock Review



Frequency: Monthly
Released: February 26, 1998

(USPS 598-250)
VOL. 20 NO. 2

**CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS SERVICE**

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE:

Cattle on Feed	1
Cattle Inventory	2
Cattle Operations and Farm Prices	3
Livestock Slaughter	4

NATIONAL LIVESTOCK REPORTS RELEASE DATES 3:00 P.M. ET

Mar. 13	Cattle on Feed	Apr. 17	Cattle on Feed
20	Livestock Slaughter	20	Cold Storage
20	Cold Storage	24	Livestock Slaughter

CALIFORNIA CATTLE ON FEED

On February 1, 1998, cattle and calves on feed for slaughter in California feedlots totaled 395 thousand head, down 1 percent from last month, but up 7 percent from a year ago. During January, placements of 50.0 thousand head remained the same as a year earlier. Marketings of 50.0 thousand head were up 11 percent from a year ago. Other disappearance was 5.00 thousand head.

Marketings of fed cattle during January totaled 2.00 million, 1 percent below 1997, but 3 percent above 1996. The year-to-year relationship between fed cattle marketed and commercial slaughter was affected by the decrease in cattle imported from Canada that are going directly to slaughter. Other disappearance totaled 99.0 thousand during January, 8 percent above 1997 and 52 percent above 1996.

U.S. CATTLE ON FEED UP 4 PERCENT

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for 1,000+ capacity feedlots totaled 10.79 million head on February 1, 1998. The inventory was 4 percent above February 1, 1997 and 9 percent above February 1, 1996. Placements in feedlots during January totaled 1.73 million, 9 percent below 1997, but 11 percent above 1996. Net placements were 1.63 million. During January, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 317 thousand, 600-699 pounds were 560 thousand, 700-799 pounds were 550 thousand, and 800 pounds and greater were 298 thousand.

CATTLE ON FEED

IN HISTORIC SEVEN STATES UP 4 PERCENT

Cattle on feed February 1, 1998 in the historic seven states for 1,000+ capacity feedlots totaled 9.18 million, up 4 percent from the previous year and 11 percent above February 1, 1996. Placements in feedlots during January totaled 1.49 million, 10 percent below 1997, but 14 percent above 1996. Marketings during January totaled 1.69 million, 2 percent below 1997, but 4 percent above 1996. Other disappearance during January was 78.0 thousand head, 20 percent above 1997 and 59 percent above 1996.

CATTLE AND CALVES: NUMBER ON FEED IN 1,000+ CAPACITY FEEDLOTS IN SEVEN SELECTED STATES

State	Number on feed January 1 ^{1/}			Placed During January		Marketed During January	
	1997	1998	1998/1997	1997	1998	1997	1998
	----- Thousand Head -----						
Arizona	233	245	105	28	21	34	24
California	375	400	107	50	50	45	50
Colorado	1,110	1,120	101	260	230	310	230
Iowa	355	360	101	45	46	39	40
Kansas	2,190	2,310	105	470	360	460	470
Nebraska	2,060	2,170	105	425	390	400	400
Texas	2,620	2,850	109	385	395	440	475
Total Seven States	8,943	9,455	106	1,663	1,492	1,728	1,689
State	Other Disappearance During January ^{2/}		Number on Feed February 1		1998/1997		
	1997	1998	1997	1998			
	----- Thousand Head -----				Percent		
Arizona	4	22	223	220	99		
California	10	5	370	395	107		
Colorado	10	20	1,050	1,100	105		
Iowa	1	1	360	365	101		
Kansas	10	10	2,190	2,190	100		
Nebraska	15	10	2,070	2,150	104		
Texas	15	10	2,550	2,760	108		
Total Seven States	65	78	8,813	9,180	104		

^{1/} Cattle and calves on feed are animals being fed for slaughter market on grain or other concentrates, and are expected to produce a carcass that will grade select or better.

^{2/} Includes death losses, movement from feedlot to pastures and shipments to other feedlots for further feeding

CALIFORNIA CATTLE AND CALF INVENTORY

All cattle and calves in California as of January 1, 1998 remained the same as the previous year at 4.60 million head. Beef cows at 810 thousand head decreased 1 percent, while milk cows increased 4 percent to 1.35 million head. All heifers weighing more than 500 pounds were estimated at 900 thousand head, down 2 percent from the previous year and comprised the following: heifers for beef cow replacement were down 6 percent, heifers for milk cow replacement remained the same as the previous year, and other heifers were down 6 percent. Steers 500 pounds and over totaled 550 thousand, down 2 percent and bulls in the same weight category remained the same totaling 70.0 thousand head. Calves weighing less than 500 pounds, at 920 thousand head, were down 1 percent from a year ago.

JANUARY 1 CATTLE INVENTORY DOWN 2 PERCENT

As of January 1, 1998, all cattle and calves in the United States totaled 99.5 million head. This was 2 percent below the 101.5 million on January 1, 1997 and 4 percent below the 103.5 million two years ago. All cows and heifers that have calved, at 42.9 million, were 2 percent below the 43.6 million on January 1, 1997 and 4 percent below the 44.6 million two years ago.

- Beef cows, at 33.7 million, were down 2 percent from January 1, 1997 and 4 percent below two years ago.
- Milk cows, at 9.19 million, were down 1 percent from January 1, 1997 and 2 percent below two years ago.

Other class estimates on January 1, 1998 and the changes from January 1 last year and two years ago, respectively, were as follows:

- All heifers 500 pounds and over, 19.7 million, down 3 percent and down 2 percent.
- Beef replacement heifers, 5.75 million, down 5 percent and down 7 percent.
- Milk replacement heifers, 3.98 million, down 2 percent and down 3 percent.
- Other heifers, 10.0 million, down 2 percent, but up 1 percent.
- Steers 500 pounds and over, 17.2 million, down 1 percent and down 3 percent.
- Bulls 500 pounds and over, 2.27 million, down 3 percent and down 5 percent.
- Calves less than 500 pounds, 17.4 million, down 3 percent and down 6 percent.
- All cattle and calves on feed for slaughter, 13.6 million, up 3 percent and up 5 percent.

ALL CATTLE AND CALVES TWELVE SELECTED STATES AND U.S. AS OF JANUARY 1

State	1997	1998	1998/1997
	-- 1,000 Head --		- Percent -
Arizona	790	800	101
California	4,600	4,600	100
Colorado	3,150	3,100	98
Idaho	1,750	1,770	101
Iowa	3,900	3,750	96
Kansas	6,600	6,550	99
Nebraska	6,550	6,650	102
New Mexico	1,490	1,430	96
Oklahoma	5,450	5,450	100
South Dakota	3,800	3,550	93
Texas	14,100	14,300	101
Washington	1,200	1,220	102
United States	101,460	99,501	98

CALF CROP DOWN 3 PERCENT

The 1997 calf crop was estimated at 38.7 million, down 3 percent from 1996 and down 4 percent from 1995. Calves born during the first half of the year are estimated at 28.5 million, down 3 percent from both 1996 and 1995.

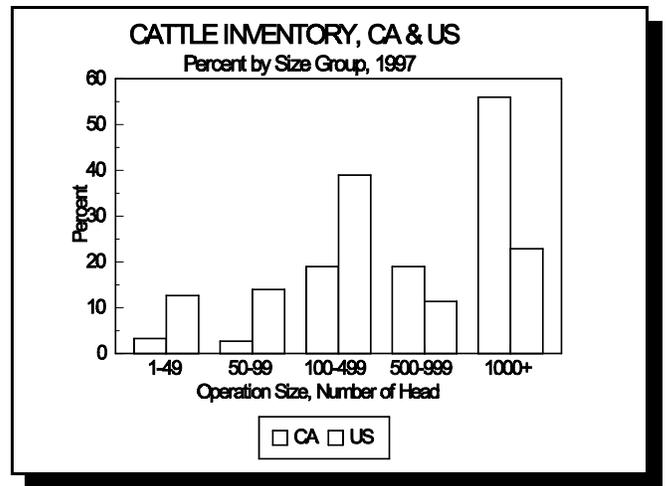
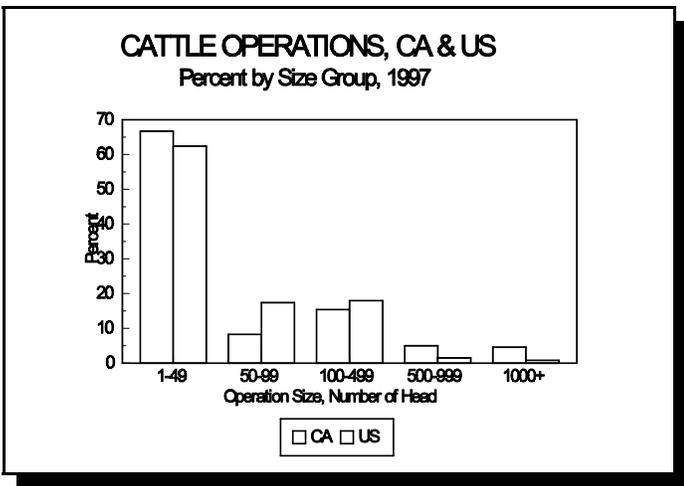
CATTLE AND CALVES: JANUARY 1, 1997, BY CLASSES, CALIFORNIA AND U.S., 1997-98

Class	California			United States		
	1997	1998	1998/1997	1997	1998	1998/1997
	-- Thousands --		- Percent -	-- Thousands --		- Percent -
All Cattle & Calves	4,600	4,600	100	101,460	99,501	98
All Cows:	2,120	2,160	102	43,580	42,874	98
Beef	820	810	99	34,271	33,683	98
Milk	1,300	1,350	104	9,309	9,191	99
Heifers 500 Lbs. +	920	900	98	20,312	19,745	97
Beef Replacement	155	145	94	6,056	5,745	95
Milk Replacement	610	610	100	4,057	3,982	98
Other Heifers	155	145	94	10,199	10,018	98
Steers 500 Lbs. +	560	550	98	17,320	17,197	99
Bulls 500 Lbs. +	70	70	100	2,339	2,266	97
Calves Less Than 500 Lbs.	930	920	99	17,909	17,418	97
	1996	1997	1997/1996	1996	1997	1997/1996
Calf Crop	1,750	1,750	100	39,776	38,718	97

CATTLE AND CALVES: NUMBER OF OPERATIONS AND PERCENT INVENTORY BY SIZE GROUPS, SELECTED STATES AND U.S., 1997 ^{1/}

State	Total Operations	Size Groups									
		1-49 Head		50-99 Head		100-499 Head		500-999 Head		1,000+ Head	
		Number of Operations	Percent Inventory								
Arizona	3,900	2,600	3.0	350	2.5	650	17.0	150	9.5	150	68.0
California	24,000	16,000	3.2	2,100	2.8	3,600	18.0	1,100	17.0	1,200	59.0
Colorado	13,000	5,900	3.1	1,900	3.9	4,200	28.0	600	13.0	400	52.0
Idaho	12,500	7,600	6.0	1,800	7.5	2,480	31.0	380	15.0	240	40.5
Iowa	43,000	21,000	10.0	9,550	17.0	11,500	51.0	600	10.0	350	12.0
Kansas	37,000	17,500	5.4	7,800	8.6	10,000	31.0	1,100	12.0	600	43.0
Nebraska	28,000	9,800	3.3	5,900	6.4	10,000	31.0	1,350	14.0	950	45.3
New Mexico	8,400	4,300	4.0	1,100	4.0	2,100	23.0	500	16.0	400	53.0
Oklahoma	64,000	40,000	15.0	11,300	15.0	11,400	40.0	850	10.0	450	20.0
S. Dakota	19,000	4,600	3.3	3,900	7.7	8,800	50.0	1,100	19.0	600	20.0
Texas	149,000	96,000	12.0	25,000	12.0	24,000	32.0	2,700	12.0	1,300	32.0
Washington	20,000	16,500	12.0	1,100	6.0	2,000	35.0	240	14.0	160	33.0
United States	1,167,910	727,000	12.4	202,350	13.8	211,210	38.5	18,000	11.4	9,350	23.9

^{1/} Percents reflect average distributions of various probability surveys conducted during the year but are based primarily on beginning-of-year and mid-year surveys.



FARM PRICES: AVERAGE PRICE RECEIVED BY FARMERS, CALIFORNIA AND U.S. ^{1/}

Commodity ^{2/}	Unit	California			United States		
		January 1997	December 1997	Jan. 15, 1998	January 1997	December 1997	Jan. 15, 1998
----- Dollars -----							
All Hay, Baled	Ton	126.00	123.00	121.00	97.90	97.70	98.10
Alfalfa, Baled	Ton	124.00	122.00	122.00	104.00	106.00	105.00
Hogs ^{2/}	Cwt.	---	---	---	53.80	41.60	36.40
Cows ^{2/}	Cwt.	28.00	31.50	32.50	30.00	33.00	34.00
Steers and Heifers ^{2/}	Cwt.	58.50	64.50	65.00	65.20	66.80	65.30
Calves ^{2/}	Cwt.	59.00	69.00	72.00	68.10	83.30	83.20
Lambs ^{2/}	Cwt.	92.00	85.00	81.50	94.60	84.10	---
Milk Cows ^{3/}	Head	1,230.00	---	1,220.00	1,090.00	---	1,070.00
Milk Whsle. ^{2/}	Cwt.	12.70	13.50	13.50	13.40	14.60	14.60

^{1/} The estimated prices in the table represent composite average prices received by farmers and are averages for all grades, classes, and methods of sale of each commodity for the State and U.S. as a whole.

^{2/} Previous month revised to monthly average.

^{3/} Animals sold for dairy herd replacement only. Prices published January, April, July and October.

CALIFORNIA COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER

California production of red meat during January 1998 totaled 90.0 million pounds (dressed weight), 5 percent below last month and 3 percent below January 1997. This figure includes slaughter in Federally inspected and State inspected plants, but excludes slaughter done on farms. In January, the average live weight of cattle slaughtered was 1,245 pounds; calves, 247 pounds; and hogs, 210 pounds.

**U.S. COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER
RED MEAT AND PORK PRODUCTION SET RECORD HIGHS**

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.84 billion pounds in January, just above January's previous record of 3.82 billion pounds, set in 1996.

January 1997 contained 23 weekdays (including two holidays) and four Saturdays. January 1998 contained 22 weekdays (including two holidays) and five Saturdays.

Beef production, at 2.16 billion pounds, was down 3 percent from the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 3.04 million head, down 6 percent from a year earlier. The average live weight was up 37 pounds from the previous year at 1,197 pounds.

Veal production totaled 24.0 million pounds, down 23 percent from a year earlier. Calf slaughter totaled 128,000 head, down 13 percent from the previous year. The average live weight was down 39 pounds from last year to 305 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.63 billion pounds, up 12 percent from the previous year and 5 percent higher than the previous high for January set in 1996. Hog kill totaled 8.59 million head, up 11 percent from a year earlier. The average live weight was up 2 pounds from the previous year at 259 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 21.0 million pounds, was up 6 percent from the previous year. Sheep slaughter totaled 309,500 head, up 2 percent from last year. The average live weight was 136 pounds, 5 pounds heavier than a year ago.

COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER, JANUARY 1997-98 1/ 2/

Species & Location	Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight		Average Live Weight	
	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998
	- 1,000 Head -		- 1,000 Pounds -		- Pounds -	
CATTLE						
California	95.4	89.9	116,744	111,880	1,224	1,245
U.S.	3,245.2	3,040.0	3,764,821	3,637,755	1,160	1,197
CALVES						
California	22.3	19.1	7,223	4,716	324	247
U.S.	146.6	128.0	50,456	38,988	344	305
SHEEP & LAMBS						
California	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
U.S.	303.9	309.5	39,775	42,199	131	136
HOGS						
California	171.6	181.7	36,374	38,143	212	210
U.S.	7,754.4	8,585.3	1,991,876	2,223,913	257	259
RED MEAT	January 1997	December 1998	January 1998	Jan. 98 Jan. 97	Jan. 98 Dec. 97	
California	--- Million Pounds ---		-- Percent --			
U.S.	93.2	95.0	90.0	97	95	
	3,733.0	3,714.1	3,834.8	103	103	

1/ Farm slaughter excluded.

2/ Data for 1997 were revised.



The Census Is Counting on You

Have you received more than one 1997 Census of Agriculture report form? Perhaps it's because you haven't sent us your reply yet. Please complete and return your report form today.

All the information you give is completely confidential by law.

**Make It Known . . .
America Counts on Agriculture**

USDA U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE